

FAX COVER SHEET

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To: Attorney General John Ashcroft
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From: Stu Schwartz
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Fax: 1 page and a cover page.

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January 19, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

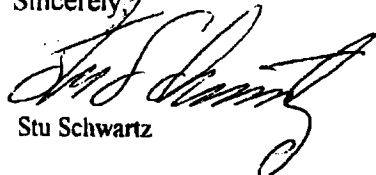
Dear Attorney General Ashcroft

I am a retired businessman, having spent my life in the wholesale and retail market place. I am very aware of the demands of business, and the fine line that separates dominating a field and being a bully. This seems to be the crux of the argument between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. A settlement was recently reached ending a three-year-long antitrust case against Microsoft for unfair business practices. I side with Microsoft. Yes, Microsoft dominates the market, but it does so because it puts out a good product -- Bill Gates recognized a need for standardized computer software -and filled it. He was quicker and smarter than his competitors. If he hadn't been, they would have overwhelmed him. Why, then, should he end up in court? We are fast approaching a time in this country when success in business is being defined by members of the congress, whose knowledge of business is largely supplied by lobbyists representing the interests of their clients and government agencies, also influenced by lobbyists as well as the Administration. There is a need for scrutiny in any field, but it needs to be more even-handed.

Microsoft has opened up its source codes for its Windows program to both computer manufacturers and competitors; has allowed competing software to be inserted into computers, allowing easier access to non-Microsoft software, and has even agreed to a technical committee to monitor future company activity. This should be more than adequate. However, Microsoft did agree to this agreement. And the Department of Justice, and I think we should honor this settlement. Both parties hammered out an agreement that both parties were happy with. We need to move on. There are more important matters we all have to deal with right now.

Give your support to this agreement. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Stu Schwartz